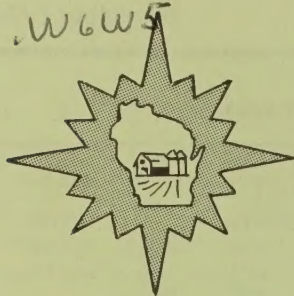


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WISCONSIN *Farm Reporter*

- Dairy
- Crops
- Livestock

Vol. VI No. 1

November 1973

U.S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE
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PROCUREMENT SECTION
CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS

Cream of the News

Production of milk on Wisconsin farms during November was 9 percent under a year ago, the ninth consecutive month of lower milk production.

Wholesale prices of butter declined from September to October but cheese prices continued higher.

Red meat production in Wisconsin during September was 4 percent below the previous year as pork output was down.

Wisconsin dairy farmers are expected to receive an average of \$7.73 a hundredweight for all milk sold in October, a record high and \$1.93 more than October 1972.

Cheese production in the Nation for September was 6 percent less than last year and output of butter was down 23 percent.

Lower prices for livestock resulted in a drop of 6 points in the index of prices received for Wisconsin farm products from mid-September to mid-October.

Fertilizer consumption in Wisconsin during the year ending June 30, 1973 was down 4 percent from a year earlier.

Feeder pig prices in Wisconsin were lower in October than in July, the first decline since January 1971.

Based on tests of corn samples sent in by Wisconsin farmers, the average moisture content of corn as of mid-October was 28.8 percent compared with 32.5 percent in October 1972.

Beef cattle and hog prices at the St. Paul market declined from September to October but remained well above last year.

Cold storage stocks of meat in the Nation at the end of October were down 6 percent from a year ago as a reduction in beef stocks offset an increase in pork.

Very good harvesting conditions this fall enabled Wisconsin farmers to have most crops harvested by mid-November.

The Nation's cold storage stocks of butter on October 31 were sharply under a year earlier and cheese stocks were also lower.

We are Thankful...

The Thanksgiving season is a time to reflect on our need to give thanks for what has been gained in the past year. Farmers and consumers should be thankful for the fine harvesting weather, a good quality food supply, and the progress made this fall on field work in preparation for next year's production of food. We wish to take this opportunity to express our thanks to the Wisconsin farmers and other persons in the agricultural industry who voluntarily provide statistical data and comments about the State's agriculture. Their compensation is the knowledge that they are performing a valuable service for agriculture as the need for statistical information becomes increasingly important. May the coming holiday season be celebrated in a spirit of peace and good will among all people.

Sincerely yours,

H. M. Walters

H. M. Walters
Agricultural Statistician
in Charge

MILK PRODUCTION CONTINUES LOWER IN OCTOBER

Production of milk on Wisconsin's dairy farms during October was 9 percent under a year ago. This was the ninth consecutive month that the State's milk production was below a year earlier. Output of milk in Wisconsin increased seasonally ½ percent from September to October, about the same increase as the previous year. Production per cow in October averaged 760 pounds, down 60 pounds from last year. In the first 10 months of 1973, Wisconsin's milk production was 4 percent below the comparable period in 1972.

The Nation's milk production during October was down 5 percent from a year ago. Output in the first 10 months of this year was 3 percent lower than in that period last year. The milk-feed price ratio for October was the lowest for that month since 1963.

222-11-73

WISCONSIN STATISTICAL REPORTING SERVICE

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Wisconsin Department of Agriculture
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United States Department of Agriculture
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Milk Production

Selected States	October 1972	October 1973	Jan.-Oct. 1973	Change from last year	
				October	Jan.-Oct.
	Million pounds			Percent	
Wisconsin	1,502	1,368	16,052	- 9	- 4
Minnesota	631	615	8,047	- 3	- 1
Iowa	336	321	3,737	- 4	- 3
New York	783	741	8,163	- 5	- 6
Pennsylvania . .	561	539	5,643	- 4	- 5
California	875	865	8,835	- 1	+ 1
Other states . .	4,772	4,566	48,563	- 4	- 2
United States . .	9,460	9,015	99,040	- 5	- 3

MILK PRICE AT
RECORD LEVEL

Demand for market grade milk and strong dairy product prices along with seasonal test increases have pushed the October all milk price to a record high. Wisconsin dairy farmers are expected to receive an average of \$7.73 a hundredweight for all milk of average test delivered to plants and dealers during October. This would be 28 cents above September and \$1.93 more than October 1972. Milk prices showed a seasonal gain of 28 cents from September to October compared with an increase of 18 cents a year earlier.

All milk sold during September returned an average of \$7.45 a hundredweight, up 72 cents from August and \$1.83

Milk Prices 1/

Selected States	August 1973		September price per cwt.			October 1973 price per cwt. 2/
	Average test	Price per cwt.	1972	1973	73/72 change	
	Percent	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Percent	Dollars
Milk for all uses						
Wisconsin	3.60	6.73	5.62	7.45	+33	7.73
Minnesota	3.50	6.37	5.22	7.00	+34	7.10
Iowa	3.52	6.49	5.42	7.10	+31	7.25
New York	3.53	7.80	6.96	8.50	+22	8.80
California	3.43	6.30	5.52	6.65	+20	7.15
United States	3.54	7.17	6.21	7.81	+26	8.10
Wisconsin utilization						
Market milk	3.58	6.86	5.79	7.60	+31	xxx
Manufacturing milk	3.62	6.57	5.39	7.24	+34	xxx
Creameries	3.62	6.56	5.35	7.19	+34	xxx
Cheese factories	3.62	6.57	5.40	7.25	+34	xxx
Varied prod. plants	3.60	6.55	5.35	7.20	+35	xxx

1/Preliminary average buying prices received for milk of average test. They differ from basic buying prices which are for 3.5% milk. 2/Based on preliminary information for milk of average test.

— PUBLISHED MONTHLY —

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This publication is free upon request to the Wisconsin Statistical Reporting Service, Box 5160, Madison, Wisconsin 53705.

Wisconsin 3.5 Test Milk Prices 1/

Utilization	Sept. 1972	August 1973	Sept. 1973 2/	Change from last year
	Dollars per cwt.			Percent
Milk for all uses	5.26	6.54	7.05	+34
Market milk	5.42	6.71	7.19	+33
Manufacturing milk	5.07	6.35	6.83	+35
Creameries	4.98	6.34	6.73	+35
American cheese plants	5.06	6.34	6.82	+35
Varied products plants	5.01	6.37	6.77	+35
Federal Order Markets				
Chicago Regional Base Zone	5.75	6.78	7.30	+27

1/Computed equivalents. 2/Preliminary.

above the previous year. Milkfat content for September averaged 3.70 percent, slightly below the 3.72 percent in September last year.

Producers for the Grade A market received an average of \$7.60 a hundredweight for September, a gain of 74 cents from August and \$1.81 higher than a year earlier. Manufacturing grade milk, at \$7.24 a hundredweight in September, was up 67 cents from the previous month and \$1.85 greater than September 1972. The price spread between market and manufacturing grade milk was 36 cents in September, 4 cents less than last year.

NATION'S CHEESE AND BUTTER
PRODUCTION UNDER A YEAR AGO

Production of cheese and butter in the Nation during September was down from a year ago. Total cheese produc-

Current Dairy Products Estimates

Item and area	Sept. 1972	Sept. 1973	Jan.-Sept. 1973	Change from last year	
				Sept.	Jan.-Sept.
	1,000 pounds			Percent	
BUTTER					
Wisconsin	12,759	8,900	141,630	-30	-11
Minnesota	14,615	13,345	174,270	-9	-18
Iowa	5,543	3,050	51,640	-45	-24
Other states	33,437	26,029	364,191	-22	-15
United States	66,354	51,324	731,731	-23	-16
CHEESE, AMERICAN					
Wisconsin	55,837	47,300	568,850	-15	-1
Minnesota	13,631	16,330	175,420	+20	+22
Missouri	7,996	5,000	58,900	-37	-22
Other states	46,713	41,652	481,185	-11	-4
United States	124,177	110,282	1,284,355	-11	-1
CHEESE, MISCELLANEOUS					
United States					
Swiss	15,206	11,644	133,407	-23	n. c.
Brick and Muenster	5,255	5,365	50,909	+2	+1
Italian	38,803	41,903	411,290	+8	+6
All other	15,841	17,297	147,942	+9	+9
Total	75,105	76,209	743,548	+1	+5
ALL CHEESE					
United States	199,282	186,491	2,027,903	-6	+1
OTHER PRODUCTS					
Cottage Cheese					
United States					
Curd 1/	63,902	57,964	599,845	-9	-1
Creamed 2/	82,292	72,860	765,984	-11	-2
	1,000 gallons			Percent	
Ice Cream					
Wisconsin	1,750	1,400	13,030	-20	-13
Illinois	4,059	3,980	35,430	-2	+8
Iowa	690	710	6,070	+3	n. c.
Michigan	3,145	2,935	27,725	-7	+4
Minnesota	2,665	2,250	23,490	-16	+2
Other states	57,512	57,097	509,374	-1	+1
United States	69,821	68,372	615,119	-2	+2

1/Includes cottage, pot, and bakers' cheese with a milkfat content of less than 4 percent. 2/Includes cheese with a milkfat content of 4 to 19 percent.

tion for September was 6 percent below last year due to a decline of 11 percent for American cheese and 23 percent for Swiss cheese. Italian cheese output in September was up 8 percent from a year earlier. Production of Brick and Muenster during September was 2 percent higher than last year while all other varieties showed a gain of 9 percent.

Wisconsin cheese factories produced 15 percent less American cheese in September than a year ago. Although Minnesota manufactured 20 percent more American cheese during September than last year, output in Missouri was down 37 percent and all other states had a drop of 11 percent.

The Nation's butter production for September was 23 percent under the previous year. Creameries in Wisconsin churned 30 percent less butter in September than a year earlier while Minnesota plants were down 9 percent. Iowa showed a sharp drop of 45 percent in butter output during September compared with a year ago, while all other states declined 22 percent.

Cottage cheese curd production in the Nation during September was 9 percent below last year and output of creamed cottage cheese was down 11 percent. The Nation's dairy plants made 2 percent less ice cream in September than a year ago.

BUTTER AND CHEESE PRODUCTION TO BE LOWER IN OCTOBER

Weekly estimates of butter and American cheese production for October indicate that output will remain under a year ago for both Wisconsin and the Nation. The Nation's butter production in October could be 20 percent less than the previous year. Churnings in September were down 23 percent and for January through September were 16 percent under the comparable period in 1972. Creameries in Wisconsin may have produced about 6 percent less butter in October than a year ago, after showing a sharp drop of 30 percent in September and a 11 percent decline in the first nine months of 1973.

According to weekly estimates, the decline in American cheese production will not be as sharp in October as in September. Production in the Nation may be down 2 percent from October 1972, while Wisconsin's output of American cheese could be 7 percent under October a year ago. Both Wisconsin and the Nation manufactured 1 percent less American cheese from January through September than in the first nine months of last year.

Recent Changes in Butter and Cheese Output

Periods	Butter			American Cheese		
	United States		Wisconsin	United States		Wisconsin
	Production 1973	Change from last year	Change from last year	Production 1973	Change from last year	Change from last year
	1,000 lbs.	Percent	Percent	1,000 lbs.	Percent	Percent
September .	51,324	- 23	- 30	110,282	- 11	- 15
Jan.-Sept. .	731,731	- 16	- 11	1,284,355	- 1	- 1
Weeks ending						
Oct. 4 . .	13,400	- 17	- 7	25,650	- 5	- 11
Oct. 11 . .	13,700	- 17	- 6	25,400	- 5	- 11
Oct. 18 . .	13,350	- 22	- 9	26,500	- 3	- 8
Oct. 25 . .	14,150	- 21	- 6	27,300	n. c.	- 6
Nov. 1 . .	13,950	- 20	- 4	27,800	+ 6	- 1
Total	68,550	- 20	xxx	132,650	- 2	xxx

WHOLESALE BUTTER PRICE DROPS BUT CHEESE PRICES CONTINUE HIGHER

Wholesale prices of 93-score butter at the New York market averaged 80.89 cents a pound in October, a decline of 6 cents from September. However, the October 93-score butter price was nearly 10 cents higher than a year ago.

Wholesale prices of cheddar cheese in 40 pound blocks increased for the eighth consecutive month at Wisconsin primary markets during October. The average of 84.22 cents a pound for cheddar cheese in October was up almost 3½ cents from September and was more than 23 cents above last year.

Swiss cheese, Wisconsin State Brand, averaged 91 cents for a block pound in October. This was an increase of 3¼ cents from the previous month and was 16¼ cents greater than October 1972.

Wholesale Dairy Prices

Commodity	October 1972	September 1973	October 1973 1/
Butter, 93-score, New York, pound 3/ . .	71.05¢	86.90¢	80.89¢
Cheese, Cheddars, Wisconsin primary markets, 40 lb. blocks, pound 2/	61.14¢	80.75¢	84.22¢
Cheese, Swiss, Wisconsin State Brand, block pound 2/	74.25¢	87.75¢	91.00¢
Evaporated milk, North Central States, case, 48-14½ oz. cans, range	\$8.10-9.10	\$9.80-10.53	\$ - - - -
Nonfat dry milk solids, spray, Chicago area, pound	33.70¢	50.07¢	50.82¢

1/Preliminary estimates. 2/Selling prices, f.o.b. at Wisconsin assembly points. 3/The average is the equivalent price for bulk butter for use in Federal Milk Marketing Orders as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture.

LIVESTOCK PRICES DOWN FROM MONTH AGO

Lower prices for livestock were primarily responsible for a drop of 6 points in the index of prices received for Wisconsin farm products from mid-September to mid-October. At 533 percent of the 1910-14 base, the prices received index as of October 15 was 144 points or 37 percent above last year.

Steers and heifers averaged \$42.00 a hundredweight for mid-October, down \$4.00 from the previous month but \$9.30 more than a year ago. This was the second month in a row that steer and heifer prices declined by \$4.00. Slaughter cows averaged \$34.00 a hundredweight in October, off \$1.00 from September but \$8.00 above October 1972.

Hogs declined \$3.20 from September to October. At \$39.80 a hundredweight for October 15, hogs were \$12.40 more than last year but \$14.50 under the record high reached in August.

Calves brought \$67.00 a hundredweight in October, down \$1.00 from September but \$17.50 above a year ago. Lambs averaged \$28.80 a hundredweight for mid-October, a decline of \$3.20 from a month earlier but up \$1.80 from last year. Sheep countered the trend of lower livestock prices by increasing 50 cents from September to October. At \$11.50 a hundredweight for October, sheep were \$5.00 higher than October 1972. The mid-October wool price of 50 cents a pound was unchanged from September but 14 cents more than a year ago.

Egg prices dropped 6 cents from September to October. At 58 cents a dozen in mid-October, egg prices were double

Prices Received by Wisconsin Farmers

Commodity	Unit	October 15, 1971	October 15, 1972	Sept. 15, 1973	October 15, 1973
Dollars					
Milk cows.....	Head	410.00	480.00	625.00	620.00
Steers and heifers..	Cwt.	28.30	32.70	46.00	42.00
Cows.....	Cwt.	21.00	26.00	35.00	34.00
Calves.....	Cwt.	41.70	49.50	68.00	67.00
Hogs.....	Cwt.	19.60	27.40	43.00	39.80
Sheep.....	Cwt.	5.20	6.50	11.00	11.50
Lambs.....	Cwt.	24.00	27.00	32.00	28.80
Wool.....	Lb.	.21	.36	.50	.50
Chickens 1/.....	Lb.	.085	.100	.220	.220
Turkeys.....	Lb.	.220	.220	.370	.370
Eggs.....	Doz.	.260	.290	.640	.580
Corn.....	Bu.	1.10	1.17	2.12	2.15
Oats.....	Bu.	.67	.75	1.05	1.15
Soybeans.....	Bu.	2.93	3.05	5.75	5.70
Alfalfa hay, baled..	Ton	21.00	30.00	27.50	29.00

1/Excludes broilers.

a year earlier. Turkeys averaged 37 cents a pound liveweight in October, the same as September, but 15 cents above last year.

Corn prices increased 3 cents a bushel from September to October. The mid-October corn price of \$2.15 a bushel was almost a dollar more than the previous year and the highest for October since 1947. Oats reached a record high for October of \$1.15 a bushel, up 10 cents from September and 40 cents greater than a year ago.

Soybeans declined a nickel from September to October, but at \$5.70 a bushel were \$2.65 above October 1972. Baled alfalfa hay averaged \$29.00 a ton as of October 15, up \$1.50 from a month earlier but \$1.00 under last year.

BUTTER AND CHEESE STOCKS DOWN FROM YEAR AGO

Cold storage stocks of butter in the Nation at the end of October amounted to only 68 million pounds, a sharp drop of 56 percent from a year ago. The Government owned 43 million pounds of butter in cold storage on October 31, less than a third of the total held on that date in 1972.

Cheese stocks in cold storage at the end of October were 4 percent below last year. Stocks of Swiss cheese were up but supplies of American and all other cheese were lower.

Cold Storage Stocks of Butter and Cheese

Commodity	October 31, 1971	October 31, 1972	October 31, 1973	Change from last year
1,000 pounds				Percent
UNITED STATES				
Butter.....	188,887	154,740	67,707	- 56
Cheese, American.....	262,439	314,175	294,583	- 6
Cheese, Swiss.....	9,111	8,225	15,669	+ 91
Cheese, all other.....	61,956	56,905	54,551	- 4
Cheese, total.....	333,506	379,305	364,803	- 4
WISCONSIN				
Butter.....	7,759	6,204	3,591	- 42
Cheese, American.....	152,896	201,018	176,453	- 12
GOVERNMENT STOCKS*				
Butter.....	154,662	138,839	43,314	- 69
Cheese, American.....	3,059	303	381	+ 26

*Included in above totals.

Manufacturers' Stocks of Other Dairy Products
United States

Commodity	Sept. 30, 1971	Sept. 30, 1972	Sept. 30, 1973	Change from last year
1,000 pounds				Percent
Dried whole milk.....	6,774	5,394	7,321	+ 36
Dried skim milk.....	108,820	65,933	87,536	+ 33
Dried buttermilk.....	2,400	3,325	4,646	+ 40
Condensed milk and evaporated milk (case goods) 1/.....	163,012	143,838	95,576	- 34

1/Combined to avoid disclosing individual plant operations.

FERTILIZER CONSUMPTION DOWN IN WISCONSIN

Fertilizer consumption in Wisconsin during the year ended June 30, 1973 was estimated at 906,476 tons, a decline of 4 percent from a year earlier. Fertilizer consumption is defined as all commercial fertilizer materials or products sold or shipped for farm and non-farm use as fertilizer. Materials used in manufacture of registered mixes or for uses other than fertilizer are excluded.

Mixed fertilizer used in Wisconsin during the period ending June 30, 1973 totaled 397,408 tons. Mixtures accounted for 44 percent of the total fertilizer tonnage in 1972-73 compared with 43 percent a year earlier. The use of direct application primary plant nutrient materials declined 5 percent from the previous year. Primary nutrients (N, P₂O₅, and K₂O) usage totaled 507,689 tons. Secondary and micro-nutrient materials reported for direct application amounted to 1,379 tons, up 21 percent from 1971-72.

Total Fertilizer, Consumption by Kind
Wisconsin, Years ended June 30, 1969-73 1/

Year	Mixtures	Direct-application material 2/		Total	
		Primary nutrient	Secondary and micro-nutrient	Quantity	Change from previous year
		Tons			Percent
1969 ...	409,411	417,731	1,134	828,276	+ 1
1970 ...	384,846	461,579	294	846,719	+ 2
1971 ...	411,874	488,931	1,056	901,861	+ 7
1972 ...	407,386	533,665	1,138	942,189	+ 4
1973 3/..	397,408	507,689	1,379	906,476	- 4

1/Excludes liming materials. 2/Excludes materials used in commercial mixtures. 3/Preliminary.

Primary Plant Nutrients, Consumption by Kind of Fertilizer
Wisconsin, Years ended June 30, 1969-73

Year	N	Available P ₂ O ₅	K ₂ O	Total	
				Quantity	Change from previous year
	Tons				Percent
	Mixtures				
1969	34,679	99,100	74,712	208,581	— 1
1970	34,182	95,927	69,739	199,848	— 4
1971	39,294	108,327	70,552	218,173	+ 9
1972	40,825	108,965	67,364	217,154	n. c.
1973 1/ ...	40,933	108,492	63,983	213,408	— 2
	Mixtures and direct-application materials				
1969	103,997	120,882	199,647	424,526	+ 3
1970	115,130	120,100	197,681	432,911	+ 2
1971	122,518	133,337	211,543	467,398	+ 8
1972	129,089	135,847	227,647	492,583	+ 5
1973 1/ ...	116,602	130,875	229,190	476,667	— 3

1/Preliminary.

CORN MOISTURE LOWER THAN LAST YEAR

Tests of corn samples sent in by farm reporters revealed that the average moisture content of Wisconsin's corn at mid-October was 28.8 percent compared with 32.5 percent last year. Since records were started in 1965, only 1970 and 1971 had a lower corn moisture content than 1973.

Moisture tests showed less variation in 1973, ranging from a low of 19.2 percent to a high of 41.0 percent. In 1972 the range varied from 19.0 to 64.7 percent. Corn in all areas of the State contained less moisture in 1973 than a year earlier, with the central area and the southeast corner reporting the lowest moisture content.

The October 1 Corn Objective Yield survey indicated that corn maturity in Wisconsin was slightly behind a year ago due to later plantings. Not much corn was mature enough for grain in the north when a frost occurred September 18 but fields in the south were able to ripen as the first frost did not hit there until a month later.

**Average Corn Moisture by Districts
Wisconsin, Mid-October 1968-73**

District	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973
Percent Moisture						
Northern 1/	35	33	31	33	40	29
West Central	30	32	27	30	32	30
Central	33	34	28	27	34	27
East Central	30	33	28	28	31	29
Southwest	29	34	27	26	34	30
South Central	30	29	26	27	30	28
Southeast	29	34	28	25	34	29
State Average	31.0	32.4	27.2	27.5	32.5	28.8
High	50.0	52.0	40.8	47.2	64.7	41.0
Low	23.2	21.0	17.6	17.2	19.0	19.2

1/Includes Northwest, North Central, and Northeast districts.

FEEDER PIG PRICES LOWER

Wisconsin farmers reported paying an average of \$32.10 in October for a feeder pig weighing 40 pounds. This was a decline of \$2.40 from July and the first time since January 1971 that feeder pig prices in Wisconsin declined. The October 1973 feeder pig price was \$8.60 higher than a year earlier.

Wisconsin Feeder Pig Prices and Weights 1/

Year	January	April	July	October
Dollars per head				
1965	10.50	12.10	13.00	15.15
1966	20.65	20.00	16.60	16.30
1967	14.50	14.75	15.20	14.90
1968	13.70	15.40	15.10	15.20
1969	14.00	16.40	17.80	19.00
1970	21.50	24.50	18.80	12.60
1971	9.35	12.05	12.80	14.30
1972	18.50	21.70	23.30	23.50
1973	24.80	30.90	34.50	32.10
Pounds per head				
1965	42	40	40	40
1966	41	40	40	41
1967	42	41	41	41
1968	42	40	41	41
1969	41	41	41	41
1970	41	39	40	40
1971	41	40	40	41
1972	41	40	40	40
1973	41	40	40	40

1/Prices paid by farmers and weights are average for the month as reported by Wisconsin Crop Correspondents.

MEAT STOCKS DOWN 6 PERCENT

Cold storage stocks of meat in the Nation at the end of October were 6 percent below a year earlier. Although pork stocks were up 6 percent from October 31, 1972, the amount of beef in cold storage was down 14 percent.

There were 282 million pounds of beef in cold storage at the end of October, a decline of more than 44 million pounds from last year. Pork supplies in cold storage on October 31 totaled 222 million pounds, up 13 million pounds from a year ago. Frozen pork bellies, at 15 million pounds, were 31 percent under the previous year.

**Cold Storage Stocks of Meat
United States**

Commodity	Oct. 31, 1971	Oct. 31, 1972	Sept. 30, 1973	Oct. 31, 1973	Change from last year
1,000 pounds					Percent
Beef:					
Frozen	337,827	315,493	234,294	268,425	- 15
In cure and cured	9,396	11,170	10,518	13,835	+ 24
Total	347,223	326,663	244,812	282,260	- 14
Pork:					
Frozen	288,122	192,781	183,190	207,974	+ 8
In cooler	22,324	16,073	15,146	13,839	- 14
Total	310,446	208,854	198,336	221,813	+ 6
Other meats and meat products:					
Veal, frozen	8,114	10,486	7,759	8,205	- 22
Lamb and mutton, frozen ..	20,059	18,226	13,071	13,462	- 26
Canned meats in cooler:					
Hams	65,291	61,885	50,549	61,549	- 1
Other meats	16,941	15,553	12,683	13,530	- 13
Total, all meats	768,074	641,667	527,210	600,819	- 6

RED MEAT PRODUCTION BELOW LAST YEAR

Production of red meat in Wisconsin's commercial slaughtering plants during September was about 4 percent below a year ago. Although output of beef was up 8 percent, pork production declined 19 percent.

Wisconsin slaughtering plants killed 95,500 cattle in September, up 5,000 from the previous year. Cattle averaged 1,134 pounds liveweight for September, 24 pounds heavier than a year earlier.

The hog kill for September amounted to 214,000 com-

Commercial Livestock Slaughter

Area	Number			Liveweight	
	September		Change from last year	September	
	1972	1973		1972	1973
	1,000 head		Percent	Million pounds	
Cattle					
Wisconsin	90.5	95.5	+ 6	100.5	108.3
United States 1/ ..	3,041.5	2,604.6	- 14	3,121.1	2,724.7
Calves					
Wisconsin	14.4	15.2	+ 6	2.6	2.6
United States 1/ ..	243.7	163.9	- 33	61.7	43.5
Hogs					
Wisconsin	269.0	214.0	- 20	63.2	51.1
United States 1/ ..	6,807.9	5,653.2	- 17	1,615.1	1,352.6
Sheep and lambs					
Wisconsin5	.7	+ 40	.047	.069
United States 1/ ..	893.2	819.6	- 8	89.8	85.2

1/Excludes Alaska and Hawaii.

pared with 269,000 in September 1972. This was the fewest number of hogs butchered in September since a similar figure in 1962. The average liveweight of hogs slaughtered during September was 239 pounds, 4 pounds more than a year ago.

Calf slaughter for September totaled 15,200, a gain of 800 from last year's record low for the month. Average live-weight of calves butchered in September was 170 pounds, 8 pounds lighter than the previous year. The September sheep and lamb kill of 700 was 200 more than a year earlier.

NOVEMBER CROP REPORT

Fine harvesting conditions this fall allowed Wisconsin farmers to harvest most of their crops by mid-November. About 10 percent of the corn for grain was left to pick but practically all the soybeans had been combined. Yields of corn and soybeans varied substantially, depending on when planted and the amount of moisture received in summer. Production of corn for grain was expected to total 176 million bushels, down 13 percent from 1972. The estimated yield of 86 bushels for 1973 is 9 bushels under last year. Quality of the corn crop was the best in several years due to a low moisture content and good harvesting conditions. Soybeans also had good quality. Even though soybean yields may be lower than in 1972, production will be up because of a big increase in acreage.

Wisconsin's 1973 tobacco production is estimated at nearly 20 million pounds, an increase of about 7 percent from 1972. The harvested acreage was down almost 6 percent

from last year but yields are expected to be higher. Harvesting of potatoes went very good in the excellent fall weather in sharp contrast to 1972 when muddy fields and a hard freeze in October caused a loss of several hundred unharvested acres. Production of potatoes for 1973 is estimated at almost 20 million hundredweight up 4 percent from 1972 as the harvested acreage increased by 1,500 and yields were up slightly.

The weather in October was very favorable for the cranberry harvest. Quality and color were generally quite good this year but berry size varied by regions. Production of cranberries for 1973 is estimated at 790,000 barrels compared with 805,000 barrels in 1972.

Fall plowing made much progress this year whereas last year the excessive late summer and fall rains severely limited fall plowing. Farmers reported plowing more acres this fall than in many years.

BEEF CATTLE PRICES LOWER

Prices of good grade fed steers and utility cows at the St. Paul market declined from September to October as did feeder steers at the Kansas City market. Good grade steers weighing between 900-1100 pounds averaged \$39.67 a hundredweight in October, down \$3.50 from September but \$6.21 above October 1972. Utility cows at St. Paul averaged \$34.74 a hundredweight during October, a decline of \$1.10 from September but up \$8.08 from a year earlier. Good

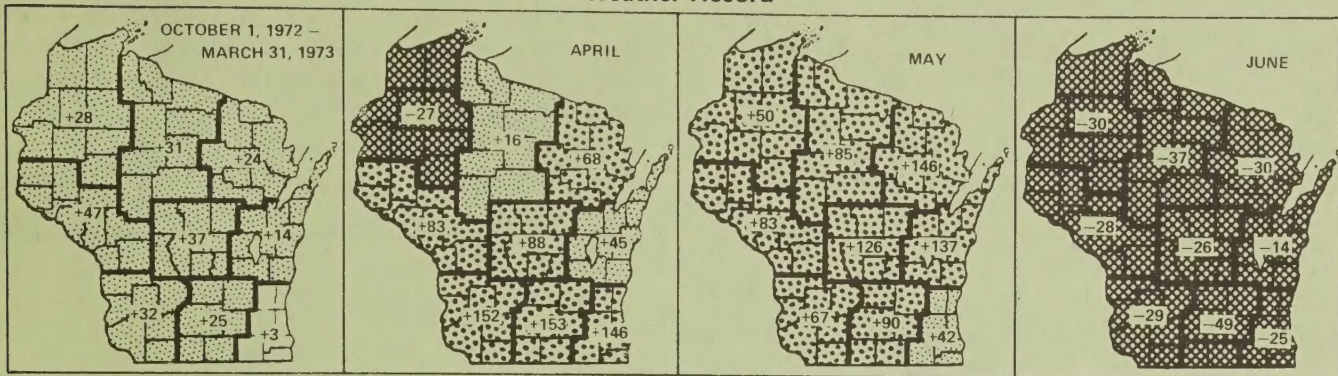
(continued on page 8)

Crop Summary of Wisconsin for November 1, 1973

Crop	Acreage			Yield per acre			Unit	Production		
	1971	1972	1973 (preliminary)	1971	1972	1973 (preliminary)		1971	1972	1973 (preliminary)
	Thousands							Thousands		
FIELD CROPS										
Corn for grain	2,304	2,143	2,050	98.0	95.0	86.0	Bu.	225,792	203,585	176,300
Oats	1,535	1,350	1,400	62.0	55.0	44.0	Bu.	95,170	74,250	61,600
Barley	28	22	24	55.0	45.0	45.0	Bu.	1,540	990	1,080
Rye	12	10	9	24.0	20.0	22.0	Bu.	288	200	198
Wheat (all)	35	29	30	37.5	31.1	35.0	Bu.	1,314	901	1,050
Winter	22	20	18	42.0	32.0	39.0	Bu.	924	640	702
Spring	13	9	12	30.0	29.0	29.0	Bu.	390	261	348
Soybeans for beans	128	145	236	23.5	28.0	23.0	Bu.	3,008	4,060	5,428
Potatoes (Fall)	51.5	45.5	47.0	256	253	255	Cwt.	13,183	11,530	11,985
Tobacco (all)	10.6	10.8	10.2	2,125	1,727	1,950	Lb.	22,525	18,650	19,890
Type 54	5.3	5.0	4.9	2,270	1,700	1,950	Lb.	12,031	8,500	9,555
Type 55	5.3	5.8	5.3	1,980	1,750	1,950	Lb.	10,494	10,150	10,335
HAY AND FORAGE										
Hay (all)	3,987	3,920	4,070	2.78	2.60	2.56	Ton	11,083	10,203	10,401
Alfalfa and mixture	3,017	2,950	3,090	2.95	2.85	2.70	Ton	8,900	8,408	8,343
All other	970	970	980	2.25	1.85	2.10	Ton	2,183	1,795	2,058
VEGETABLE CROPS										
Carrots 1/	1.6	1.7	1.3	415	400	370	Cwt.	666	679	481
Cabbage 1/	3.2	3.8	2.3	345	315	240	Cwt.	1,101	1,204	552
Lettuce 1/	1.6	.9	1.1	220	210	250	Cwt.	352	189	275
Mint for oil	10.3	4.5	6.4	43	30	38	Cwt.	443	135	243
Onions, Commercial	1.6	1.5	1.4	235	250	280	Cwt.	376	375	392
For processing:										
Green lima beans	5.3	6.4	7.3	1.25	.82	1.00	Ton 2/	6.7	5.3	7.3
Peas	125.1	122.2	130.1	1.17	1.34	1.10	Ton 2/	146.4	163.8	143.1
Snap beans	50.1	45.5	60.0	2.59	2.67	2.40	Ton	129.8	121.5	144.0
Sweet corn	117.9	113.5	124.0	4.57	4.54	3.80	Ton	538.8	515.3	471.2
Beets for canning	5.8	4.5	6.2	11.66	14.00	10.50	Ton	67.7	63.0	65.1
FRUITS, ETC.										
Apples, Commercial	—	—	—	—	—	—	Lb.	65,000	65,000	50,000
Tart cherries	—	—	—	—	—	—	Ton	8.4	4.6	2.6
Cranberries	—	—	—	—	—	—	Bbl.	742	805	790
Strawberries	1.5	1.4	1.4	29	23	27	Cwt.	44	32	38

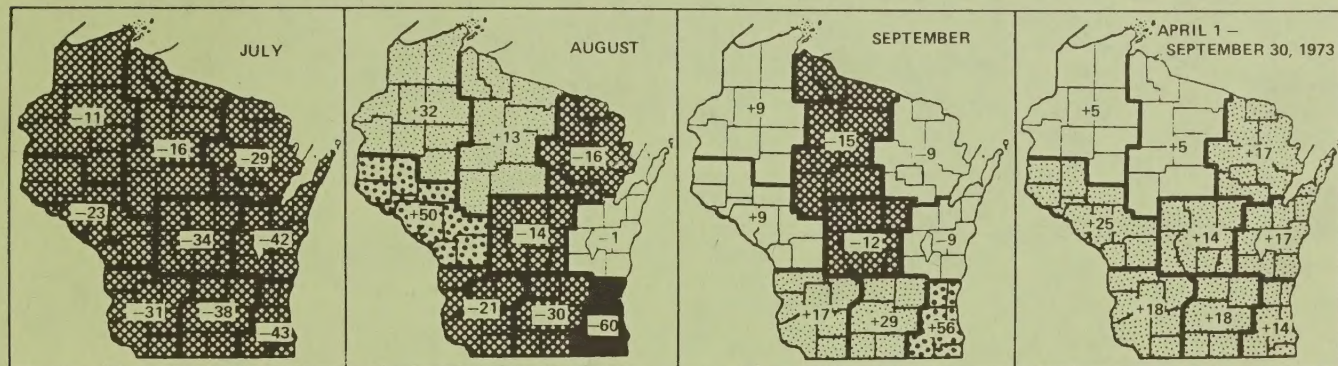
1/Summer acreage. 2/Shelled.

Weather Record



Fall and winter precipitation averaged above normal in all districts, unusually large proportion fell as rain. October, December, and March had above normal precipitation. First half of December very cold, then turned mild. This mild weather persisted for much of winter, prevent-

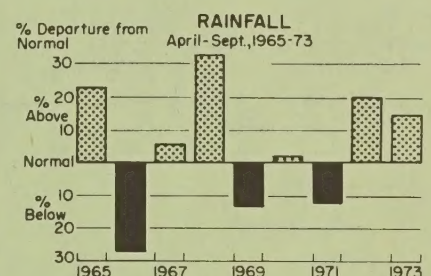
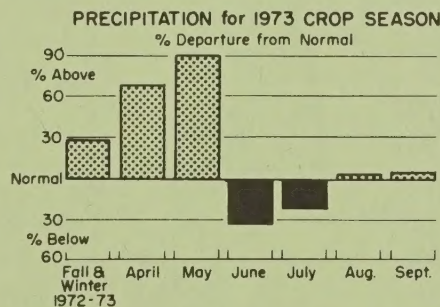
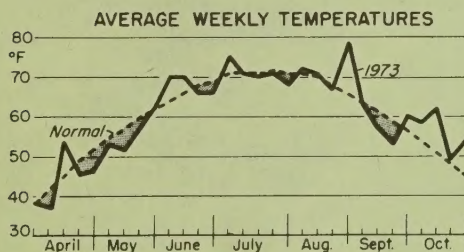
ing frost from penetrating too deeply where ground was bare. Frost left the ground and ice went out of lakes on near record early dates in spring. Rainfall was heavy in April and May, below normal June and July, above in west and northwest in August, heavy in south in Sept.



Precipitation; average by crop districts:

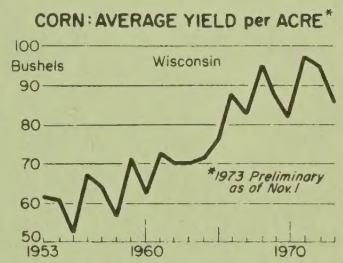
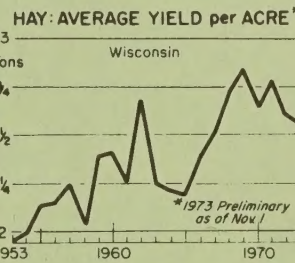
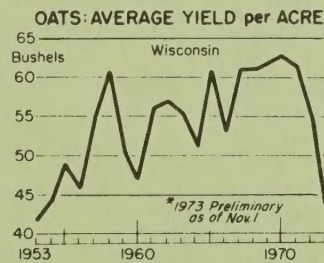
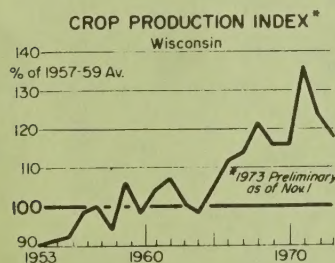
50% or more above normal; 10-49% above normal; near normal; 10-49% below normal; 50% or more below normal

Figures show average percent above or below normal for crop districts.



Temperatures during growing season averaged slightly above normal. June, August, and October were above normal. First half of June and last week of August particularly warm. Last frost of spring occurred May 17. No frost remainder of growing season until September 18 in

the north. First light frost in south and east October 17 but no real hard frost until early November when sharply colder. Rainfall during growing season averaged 14 percent above normal as April and May very wet, offsetting a dry June and July.



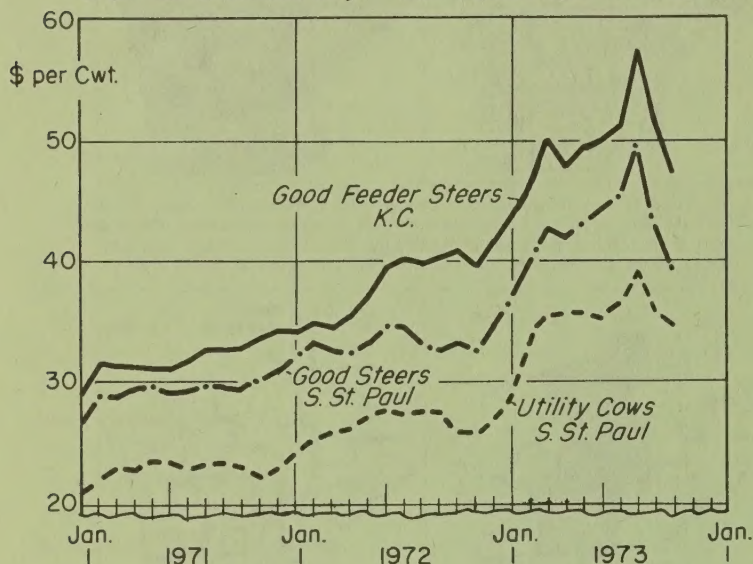
The crop production index, at 118 percent of the 1957-59 average, was 5 points below 1972. Widespread planting dates and an uneven moisture distribution resulted in variable crop yields. Spring was very wet and crops were late being planted. Summer was too dry for best crop development. Yield of oats was the poorest in several years. Production of hay was up slightly but yields of corn for grain and silage were

down from last year. Farmers increased all corn acreage and also had a big increase in soybean acreage. The apple and cherry crops were down due to poor pollination. Cranberries, strawberries, potatoes, and tobacco were good crops. Gardens were very good but commercial vegetable crop yields varied. Because of much better harvesting weather in 1973, the quality of all crops was good.

grade feeder steers weighing between 600-700 pounds, averaged \$47.68 a hundredweight at Kansas City for October, about \$4.00 under the previous month but \$6.69 above last year.

BEEF CATTLE PRICES

S. St. Paul & Kansas City Monthly Averages 1971, 72, 73

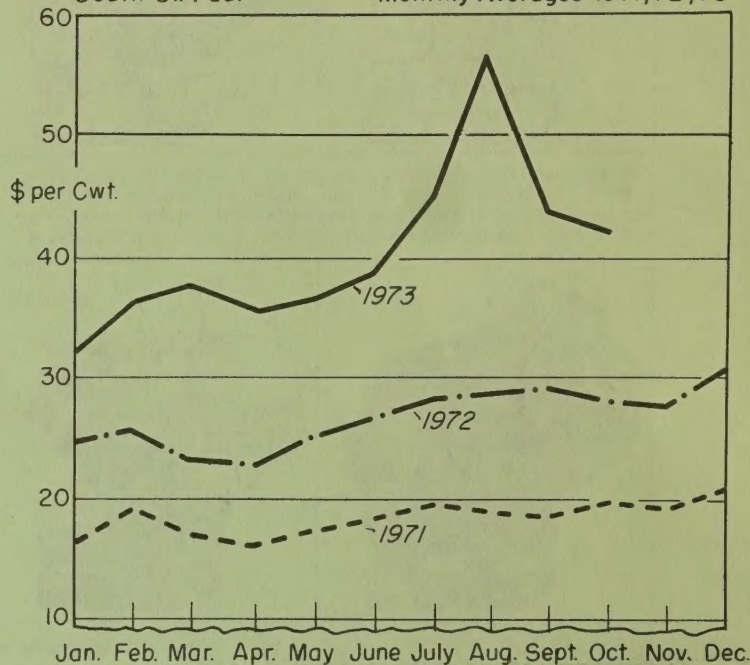


PRICES OF BARROWS AND GILTS LOWER FOR OCTOBER

Prices of barrows and gilts at the St. Paul market averaged \$42.30 a hundredweight for October, a decline of \$1.62 from a month earlier but \$14.26 greater than October 1972. This was the second month in a row that prices of barrows and gilts were lower after reaching a record high of \$56.60 a hundredweight in August.

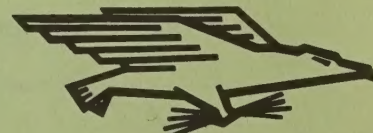
BARROW and GILT PRICES

South St. Paul Monthly Averages 1971, 72, 73



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